

NSC BRIEFING

26 June 1957

SOVIET NAVAL MOVEMENTS IN MEDITERRANEAN

- I. On 12 June, USSR notified Turkey that naval forces (1 cruiser, 3 destroyers, 2 destroyer escorts) would sortie through Turkish Straits into Mediterranean on 20 and 21 June.
 - A. Stated purpose was "navigational training".
 - B. No return date given.
- II. Cruiser Mikhael Kutuzov (Sverdlov class--15,000 tons) and two destroyer escorts (Riga class--900 tons) came out 20 June, headed west.
 - A. Three destroyers (two Kottlins--2,850 tons, one Skorry--2,300 tons) followed next day.
 1. This group split, the Skorry-class catching up with west-bound force, while the two Kottlins headed for Suez.
 - B. Westbound group refueled from naval tanker off Sicily 23 June, have now passed Gibraltar and turned north.
 - C. This group may be transferring to Northern Fleet.
 1. More ships assigned to Black Sea Fleet than could be used there.
 2. Annual Northern Sea Route convoy to Pacific probably now getting ready to leave Northern Fleet area; ships from Black Sea could replace vessels assigned to this convoy.
- III. Suez-bound destroyers also picked up tanker, passed through Canal 23 June--first Russian naval vessels since Revolution.
 - A. Press says they will spend some time in Red Sea.
 1. Presence Soviet Military Attache Cairo on board supports this rumor.

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B. Ultimate destination unknown but may be Pacific via Indian Ocean.

IV. Moscow Radio has confirmed sale to Egypt of three submarines (two modern long-range "W" Class, one Coastal) which arrived Alexandria 16 June.

A. All still flying Soviet flag, but have taken Egyptian crews on board.

1. Egyptians have been given naval training in Poland and USSR since at least January 1956.

B. ONI believes it may still take Egyptians a year to learn to operate by themselves.

C. No indications subs will participate in operations with other Soviet ships.

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- II. Cruiser Mikhael Kutuzov (Sverdlov class--15,000 tons) and two destroyer escorts (Riga class--900 tons) came out 20 June, headed west.
 - A. Three destroyers (two Kotlins--3,850 tons, one Skoryy--2,300 tons) followed next day.
 1. This group split, the Skoryy-class catching up with west-bound force, while the two Kotlins headed for Suez.
 - B. Westbound group has now passed Gibraltar and turned north.
 - C. This group may be transferring to Northern Fleet.
- III. Suez-bound destroyers also picked up tanker, passed Canal 23 June.
 - A. Press says they will spend some time in Red Sea. Presence Soviet Military Attache Cairo on board supports this rumor.
 - B. Destination unknown but may be Pacific via Indian Ocean.
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